

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release No.: 13-46

Date: July 24, 2013

California economy improves, but rebound leads to cuts in federal extension benefits for the unemployed

SACRAMENTO – Due to an improving state economy, California is officially losing eligibility for Tier 4 federal unemployment extension benefits, according to the California Employment Development Department (EDD). The state received official notification from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) following the release of California's unemployment rate of 8.5 percent for June, announced last week.

California's latest rate of 8.5 percent brought the three-month average to below 9 percent – the level required by federal guidelines in order to provide the final ten weeks of additional benefits associated with a Tier 4 federal extension. Such benefits have been available after someone runs out of their regular state-provided benefits of up to 26 weeks and then Tiers 1, 2 and 3 of federal extension benefits.

While the EDD will no longer be able to file NEW Tier 4 extensions that start August 11, 2013, or after, already existing claims can still be paid. Anyone starting a Tier 4 extension **prior** to August 11th and who continues to remain otherwise eligible will be allowed to collect the remainder of their Tier 4 benefits until exhausted or December 28, 2013 – whichever comes first.

"Because we understand that many of those on unemployment rely on their benefits for their basic needs, the EDD wants to make sure they are aware of the shortening number of benefit weeks available so they can plan their personal finances accordingly," said EDD Chief Deputy Director Sharon Hilliard.

The EDD estimates that more than 100,000 Californians are currently collecting benefits as part of the Tier 3 federal extension and will be the first to be impacted by the loss of Tier 4 eligibility. The EDD is sending letters to these individuals advising them that Tier 4 benefits will no longer be available. Claimants on extension Tiers 1 and 2 could also eventually be impacted.

Tier 4 benefits have been payable in California since February 2010. The loss of such benefits means the new maximum potential benefit amount available for claimants is up to 63 weeks, including up to 26 weeks of state-provided regular benefits and up to 37 additional weeks of federal extension benefits. **But unless the U.S. Congress takes any further action, all federal extension benefits are set to end on December 28, 2013.** (See chart below.)

(more)

We encourage our UI customers to monitor our [EDD website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) pages for updates on the federal extensions. Notices sent to customers and the EDD website also include information and references to other government resources (e.g., welfare assistance, etc.) to further assist long-term unemployed individuals.

UI Extended Benefit Duration & Claim Deadlines

The following is a breakdown of federal extension benefits available in California:

Federal Unemployment Benefit Extensions Potential Maximum Weeks Of Benefits Provided							
Claim/ Extension Filing Date	Feb. 19, 2012 – May 6, 2012	May 13, 2012 – May 20, 2012	May 27, 2012 – Aug. 26, 2012	Sep. 2, 2012 – Aug. 4, 2013	Aug. 11, 2013 – Dec. 22, 2013	Claim/ Extension Filing Deadline Date	Last Payable Week Ending Date
Regular Claim	Up to 26 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Up to 26 weeks	Once someone becomes unemployed	Once someone collects all available benefits or the claim ends, whichever occurs first
Tier 1	Up to 20 weeks	Up to 20 weeks	Up to 20 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	Dec. 22, 2013	Dec. 28, 2013*
Tier 2	Up to 14 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	Up to 14 weeks	Dec. 22, 2013	Dec. 28, 2013*
Tier 3	Up to 13 weeks	Up to 13 weeks	Up to 13 weeks	Up to 9 weeks	Up to 9 weeks	Dec. 22, 2013	Dec. 28, 2013*
Tier 4	Up to 6 weeks	Up to 16 weeks	Up to 6 weeks	Up to 10 weeks	0 weeks	Aug. 4, 2013	Dec. 28, 2013*
Separate FED-ED	Up to 20 weeks	0 weeks	0 weeks	0 weeks	0 weeks	May 6, 2012	May 12, 2012
TOTAL	Up to 99 weeks	Up to 89 weeks	Up to 79 weeks	Up to 73 weeks	Up to 63 weeks		

**There are special claims that have a week ending date other than Saturday. In those cases, benefits may be payable for the week ending January 1, 2014.*